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ABSTRACT

This book considers how education might be organized around domains of caring. It envisions a school system built on the idea that different people have different strengths, and that these strengths should be cultivated in an environment of caring, not of competition. It is argued that liberal traditional education does not provide the best education for everyone because it: (1) overemphasizes rationality and abstract reasoning; (2) fosters the belief that academic excellence is superior to other kinds of abilities; and (3) undervalues the values and capacities associated with women. Numerous examples are offered of students who represent these differing strengths and examines how schools can best serve them. Chapters address the practical and theoretical questions involved in organizing traditional and nontraditional areas of study around themes of care, within the framework of the current educational system. Themes of care include caring for the self; for the inner circle; for strangers and distant others; for animals, plants, and the Earth; for the human-made world; and for the world of ideas. Introductory chapters focus on caring in general and on the problems of liberal education, while the final chapter offers advice on implementing a caring curriculum in the schools. (Contains 107 references and an index.) (LMI)

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